

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PVIP, PGOV, SG, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S VISIT

REF: DAKAR 2629

1. SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR COULBARY CALLED APRIL 28 ON AF/W DIRECTOR RE SENGHOR VISIT. WE INFORMED COULBARY THAT WHITE HOUSE HAD JUST SELECTED JUNE 8 FOR SENGHOR CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER. COULBARY WAS DISAPPOINTED AND FELT SENGHOR WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH JUNE 8 SINCE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE HAD BEEN REVISED TO PLAN FOR JUNE 7 AS LAST DAY OF U.S. STAY. WE REMINDED COULBARY THAT YOU AND HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS REVISION EARLIER IN DAKAR (REFTEL) AND HAD BOTH CONCLUDED THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR WOULD BE PREPARED TO ADJUST HIS SCHEDULE TO MEET WHITE HOUSE REQUIREMENT.

2. COULBARY EXPLAINED HIS OWN PLANNING HAD BEEN BASED ON
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HOPE THAT WHITE HOUSE MEETING COULD COME AT START OF SENGHOR VISIT RATHER THAN END, AND OUTLINED TENTATIVE SCHEDULE WHICH CALLED FOR WASHINGTON D.C. AS FIRST STOP IN U.S., MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER DURING FIRST, SECOND, OR THIRD DAY OF JUNE, TRAVEL TO CONNECTICUT FOR JUNE 4 SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY HONORARY DEGREE, TO NEW YORK CITY FOR JUNE 5 POETRY READING AT POETRY CENTER AND JUNE 6

FRIENDS OF LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR FOUNDATION DINNER, BACK TO

WASHINGTON FOR JUNE 7 MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND DEPARTURE ON JUNE 8. COULBARY ASKED THAT WE REQUEST WHITE HOUSE REVISION OF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER TO FIT THIS SCENARIO.

3. WE EXPLAINED TO COULBARY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S SCHEDULE SO TIGHT THAT WE FEARED EFFORT TO CHANGE AGREED DATE WOULD JEOPARDIZE MEETING ITSELF, BUT WE AGREED TO TAKE "INFORMAL" SOUNDINGS.

4. WE SUGGESTED THAT WITH PRESENT JUNE 8 DATE, A SUITABLE SCENARIO WOULD BE: (A) FIRST FEW DAYS OF JUNE ACCOMPANY OTHER OMVS CHIEFS OF STATE ON OTTAWA VISIT, IF THIS STILL PLANNED; OR ALTERNATIVELY, VISIT TO THE SOUTHWEST TO INSPECT IRRIGATION, RECLAMATION PROJECTS IN AREAS WITH RAINFALL AND SOIL CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO SENEGAL; (B) RETURN FOR JUNE 4 SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY HONORARY DEGREE; (C) JUNE 5 NYC POETRY READING; (D) JUNE 6 FOUNDATION DINNER; (E) JUNE 7 MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON WITH CONGRESSMEN AND GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SEMINAR; (F) JUNE 8 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. WE INFORMED COULBARY THAT WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN USE OF BLAIR HOUSE FOR ONE NIGHT.

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5. COULBARY TELEPHONED AF/W DIRECTOR, APRIL 29 TO SAY HE HAD SPOKEN TO SENGHOR ON THE TELEPHONE EARLIER THAT MORNING. SENGHOR HAD SAID THAT IF PRESIDENT CARTER OFFERED AN APPOINTMENT ON JUNE 8 IT MEANT THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS UNABLE TO SEE HIM PRIOR TO THAT TIME. RECOGNIZING THIS, SENGHOR WOULD CHANGE THE DATES OF HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES SLIGHTLY. HE IS NOW THINKING OF A VISIT JUNE 2 - JUNE 9 OR 10. COULBARY DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS OPTIONS OUTLINED PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE THAT MIGHT FIT INTO THIS PERIOD AND PLEAD FOR ONE MORE NIGHT IN THE BLAIR HOUSE TO ALLOW AT LEAST TWO DAYS IN WASHINGTON, JUNE 7 AND 8. WE SAID WE WOULD LOOK INTO THE SITUATION AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON PROGRAM OUTLINED PARAGRAPH 4. HOW INTERESTED IS SENGHOR LIKELY TO BE IN VISIT TO ARID REGIONS OF WEST? WHAT IS STATUS OF OMVS PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CANADA? NEITHER WE NOR COULBARY KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT THIS HAS BEEN CONSIDERED.

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